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March 17, 2006

The Honorable Mark Rey
Undersecretary for Natural Resources
and Environment
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Undersecretary Rey:

I am writing to provide an official public comment regarding the proposed sale of more than 21,000 acres of national forest land in Missouri to help provide funding to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000.

After analyzing maps provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service), on which it is difficult to locate specific tracts of land, it appears that much of the identified forest land provides a valuable contribution toward recreation, scenic beauty, and quality of life for Missouri residents. While the Forest Service has indicated that these lands were selected because they are isolated, in actuality many of the tracts appear to be located in areas where land is accessible, utilized, and valuable. Another concern is that the financial proceeds from the proposed sale would primarily benefit school districts in other states while Missouri schools would receive a much smaller amount of the potential revenue. For these reasons, I wish to indicate my opposition to the proposed sale.

Thank you, in advance, for your kind consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt".

Matt Blunt

Cc: Missouri Congressional Delegation